Forensic Science Syllabus

Pleasant Valley High School

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**Contact Information:**

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**Course Overview:**

This course is an introduction to forensic science, covering topics from trace evidence, firearms, crime scene reconstruction, toolmark impressions, DNA analysis, forensic psychology, and computer forensics. We will discuss the techniques used in a forensic laboratory to examine evidence and obtain the type of results that can be used in the courtroom. In addition, case studies illustrating topics of lectures will accompany the course content. The laboratory portion of the course will include experiments that demonstrate the topics discussed in lectures.

**Materials:**

* **Required:** Three Ring Binder, Loose leaf paper (No spiral Notebooks), scientific calculator, blue or black pen, pencil, maturity
* **Recommended:** crime scene stencil set( can be purchased online @ <http://www.bear-aide.com/Crime_Scene_Template.htm> for $15.95)

**Objectives:**

* Meet standards set by the Alabama Course of Study for the Forensic Science Elective Core
* Meet National Science Standards
* Prepare students for post-secondary coursework in forensic science

**Classroom Regulations:**

* **Tardiness:** In order to be counted as punctual, you MUST be in your seat and prepared for class to begin before the bell rings. Do not linger in the hall ways socializing and expect me to not mark you tardy. You are seniors or juniors in high school and should at this point have a grip on telling time; therefore, I will hold you responsible for that. Being tardy will cause you to receive a point deduction in your classroom participation grade as well as any consequences outlined in the Calhoun County Schools Student Handbook.
* **Climate and Environment:** The seating arrangement, heating and cooling, multimedia equipment, classroom decorations, and storage containers are all property of the teacher, and thus are not to be altered in any fashion by you. If you alter the classroom environment in any way, you will receive a point deduction from your classroom participation grade for not following the guidelines set forth for your participation.
* **Computer Usage:** The use of computers while in my class will be under strict supervision. The computers in this classroom are intended for instructional purposes only. They are not gaming devices, and will not be used as gaming devices. If you are caught playing games on my computers, you will lose your technology privileges during my class.
* **Hall Passes and Restroom Use:** There is a restroom across the hall from my classroom. With that said, It is required that restroom visits occur prior to class beginning. Hall activity during class is strictly prohibited without ***written*** permission from a teacher or faculty member. You will be allowed two restroom visits per semester, so I would advise you to use them wisely.
* **Classroom Preparedness:** You are expected and required to be in class prepared everyday. Do not even waste your breath asking to leave class to get supplies, for you will simply be ignored. Being prepared means that you have a blue/black ink pen, paper, and your textbook everyday unless instructed otherwise. Being unprepared for class will result in a point deduction from your classroom participation grade.
* **Behavior:** You are expected to give ALL adults in this classroom your utmost respect; therefore, inappropriate comments, verbal assault, raising of your voice, and blatant disrespect will not be tolerated. This will result in an immediate office referral. You are also expected to show respect to school property. If you perform a vandalistic act upon any property of the teacher or school, you will receive an office referral for vandalism. This includes: desktop artwork, unauthorized use of whiteboard markers, not returning classroom supplies to the correct storage receptacles, leaving trash in the floor, having food or drink in my classroom, damage to posters, or other students work. Talking during lectures is strictly prohibited. It simply will not be tolerated. If the teacher, guest speaker, substitute, or other student is performing a lecture, you will be ***SILENT***. However, content relevant questions are highly welcomed and highly encouraged. But if someone asks a question, I will answer it unless I designate one of you to answer it; in other words, I do not need to hear you while a question is being answered.
* **Class Dismissal:** Class will be dismissed by the teacher, not the bell. The bell is simply a means of telling me class time is over.

**Grading Policy:**

Your grade will be determined based on the following scale; however, this is simply an estimate. The teacher holds the right to change this scale with notice to the students.

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| --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Weight** |
| Examinations and Classroom Activities | 25% |
| Lab Activities | 25% |
| Classroom Participation | 50% |

**Make-ups and Late Work:**

Make-up work is up to the student to be completed. I will not remind you that you are taking this class upon your return to school. It is your responsibility to ask me about your make-up work. You have only three days upon your return to turn in make-up work or schedule other arrangements. Late work will NOT BE ACCEPTED!! NO EXCEPTIONS!!

**Notebooks:**

You will be required to keep up with daily activities on your own. Keep this in your binder until it is requested at the end of a grading period. This assignment list is to follow the following format:

Date Assignment/Activity Due Date Grade